

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO CINCPACREP GUAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 120354

FOR HICOM, STATUS LNO, PLEBISCITE COMMISSIONER FOR INFO

REF: USUN 1689

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 120354 ACTION MOSCOW INFO  
USUN NEW YORK 22 MAY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 120354

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, TQ, UR

SUBJECT: TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL AND UN OBSERVATION OF  
MARIANAS PLEBISCITE: SOVIET PARTICIPATION

1. DEPT AGREES REFTEL RECOMMENDATION AND REQUESTS EMBASSY  
MOSCOW MAKE APPROACH AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL USING FOLLOWING  
BACKGROUND POINTS.

2. BACKGROUND:

A) THE USG HAS LONG SUPPORTED THE GOAL OF SELF-DETERMINA-  
TION OF THE FUTURE STATUS OF ALL DEPENDENT TERRITORIES.

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B) AS ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE STRATEGIC TRUST

TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, THE U.S. REPORTS  
ANNUALLY TO THE UNITED NATIONS TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL.

C) IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS OVER A PERIOD EXCEEDING 20  
YEARS FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS,  
THE US EMBARKED ON NEGOTIATION WITH THE MARIANAS POLITICAL  
STATES COMMISSION (MPSC) FOR A FUTURE POLITICAL STATUS,  
SEPARATE FROM THE REST OF MARIANAS, AND IN CLOSER UNION  
WITH THE U.S. THE TC, IN ITS REPORT TO THE SECURITY  
COUNCIL, HAS RECOGNIZED THESE REQUESTS AND SUBSEQUENT  
NEGOTIATIONS.

D) ON FEBRUARY 15, 1975, THE US AND THE NORTHERN MARIANA  
ISLANDS AGREED TO A COVENANT OF COMMONWEALTH, WHICH HAS  
BEEN APPROVED BY THE MARIANAS DISTRICT LEGISLATURE, AND  
WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED TO PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA  
ISLANDS ON JUNE 17 OF THIS YEAR. THE COVENANT MUST ALSO  
RECEIVE US CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.

E) WE EXPECT AND WELCOME UN OBSERVATION OF THIS ACT OF  
SELF-DETERMINATION. THE US IS REQUESTING THE TRUSTEESHIP  
COUNCIL TO DISPATCH A SPECIAL VISITING MISSION TO OBSERVE  
THE CAMPAIGN, THE PLEBISCITE, AND THE VOTE TALLY. AS  
RECOGNIZED BY PREVIOUS SESSIONS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL,  
THE US HAS NO INTENTION THAT THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
WOULD OBTAIN COMMONWEALTH STATUS UNTIL THE TRUSTEESHIP  
AGREEMENT IS TERMINATED FOR THE ENTIRE TRUST TERRITORY  
SIMULTANEOUSLY (PRESENTLY ANTICIPATED FOR 1980).

F) WE HAVE WELCOMED SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN 1973 VISITING  
MISSION TO THE TRUST TERRITORY AND LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR  
PARTICIPATION IN THIS OBSERVATION OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA  
ISLANDS ACT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

3. FYI. ALTHOUGH SOVIETS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN TC, THEY  
HAVE NEVER HELD OFFICE ON COUNCIL, ABSTAINED ON RESOLU-  
TIONS AND NOT BEEN MEMBERS OF DRAFTING COMMITTEES, AND  
PARTICIPATED FOR FIRST TIME IN 1973 VISITING MISSION.  
END FYI. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE

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